

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Lessons of 1962 'missile' crisis:
'Unity of Cuban people'
— PAGE 4

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 86/NO. 44 NOVEMBER 28, 2022

2022 vote yields divided gov't, deepens crisis in bosses' parties

BY TERRY EVANS

While all the results of the 2022 elections will not be known for weeks, the Democrats held on to the Senate while Republicans have won the House, both by the slimmest of margins. Neither of these parties are capable of providing the capitalist rulers with a decisive majority and self-confident course in their drive to put the social, economic and moral crisis on the backs of working people.

Without a substantial majority, Democrats will continue to find it difficult to get their partisan projects through Congress. They will continue to rely heavily on executive orders issued by the White House. This situation narrows their ability to push anti-constitutional "reforms," like packing the U.S. Supreme Court, eliminating the electoral college and more.

Under capitalist exploitation, government gridlock is most often better for working people. The less that the Democrats or Republicans can do, the less they can do to us.

One thing is certain, President Joseph Biden's war against Donald Trump; his administration's effort to refurbish the FBI, the rulers' political police; and attacks on the tens of millions he calls

Continued on page 6

Canadian school, US rail workers fight bosses, gov't



Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association

In Ontario, Canada, striking school workers, above, won solidarity, forced provincial government to junk anti-strike law. Fight has inspired working people, boosted fights by other unions.

Ontario school workers step up fight for wage increases

BY JOHN STEELE

MONTREAL — The Canadian Union of Public Employees continues to mobilize and gain widespread solidarity in the fight to win significant wage raises for its 55,000 members working in public education support jobs in Ontario and set an example of struggle for all working people. After the union conducted a militant two-

Continued on page 7

US rail unions set strike date over jobs, schedules, safety

BY JOE SWANSON

LINCOLN, Neb. — Over 115,000 rail union members are counting down to early December to see if they'll go out on strike in their ongoing fight to defend their jobs, safety and health from assault by the rail bosses. And the bosses have the aid of the Joseph Biden White House, which is threatening to have Congress step in, bar a strike and impose an anti-working-class contract on the workers.

Continued on page 6

'Militant', SWP go over the top in fall campaigns

BY VIVIAN SAHNER

Members of the Socialist Workers Party and Communist Leagues in Australia, Canada and the U.K. met their goals, winning 1,352 new readers to the *Militant* and getting out 1,503 books by SWP leaders and other revolutionaries during the eight-week international campaign that wrapped up Nov. 15. In the U.S., contributions totaling \$142,936 were collected for the SWP Party-Building Fund.

Welcome to all our new readers and congratulations to everyone who participated!

Campaigners spoke to hundreds of workers and farmers on doorsteps in cities and rural areas, introducing the SWP's candidates and their working-class program as well as the party's two statements — "Defend Ukraine's independence! For defeat of Moscow's invasion!" and "Demand Washington end its economic war on Cuba! Now!"

Continued on page 3

Workers, youth call new strikes, protests in Iran

BY SETH GALINSKY

Thousands of Iranian students, shopkeepers and workers heeded the call for protests Nov. 15-17 against the reactionary capitalist regime's trampling on democratic rights.

"The Coordinating Council of Iranian Teachers Trade Unions once again honors the memory of the young people, students and innocent people killed all over Iran, and especially in Kurdistan, Zahedan and Khash," the union said Nov. 14, calling for protests to demand the release of thousands of imprisoned protesters and unionists.

The actions were timed to coincide with the anniversary of a wave of anti-government actions that began Nov. 15, 2019, and spread to cities and rural towns across Iran.

Over the past two months, hundreds have been killed by government forces at daily protests that began after the death of the young Kurdish woman Mahsa — also known by her Kurdish

Continued on page 9

Ukraine pushes Moscow out of Kherson, defends nat'l sovereignty

BY ROY LANDERSEN

The Ukrainian people inflicted another significant defeat onto Moscow's attempt to conquer their country. Kyiv's troops swept into Kherson Nov. 11, the only regional capital Moscow had taken since the war began, after the regime of President Vladimir Putin ordered the increasingly demoralized Russian forces to retreat.

Elated civilians who survived eight months of Moscow's brutal occupation gave Ukrainian soldiers flowers and hoisted them on their shoulders. Billboards proclaiming "Russia is here forever!" were torn down.

Continued on page 9

Puerto Rico Cuba solidarity group pushes back against FBI harassment



Frente Independentista Boricua

Milagros Rivera, left, president of Cuba Solidarity Committee in Puerto Rico, joined Oct. 29 protest in New York against U.S. rulers' financial, trade and economic war against Cuba.

BY SETH GALINSKY

NEW YORK — "They haven't been able to break Cuba, so they have to criminalize solidarity," Milagros Rivera, president of the Cuba Solidarity Committee in Puerto Rico, said in an Oct. 28 interview at the *Militant* office

here. She was explaining why the FBI harassed members of a brigade from the U.S. colony that went to Cuba in July.

"It also bothers the empire that people in its colony are showing solidarity with Cuba."

Continued on page 4

Inside

Socialist Workers Party advances road forward 9

Statue to honor Korean women forced into brothels by Tokyo 2

UK women's conference takes up fight for equality, rights 2

—On the picket line, p. 5—

Workers in Europe strike, protest for raises to cover inflation

'Pittsburgh Post-Gazette' strikers gain support, stay strong

Statue to honor Korean women forced into brothels by Tokyo

BY CHRIS HOEPPNER

PHILADELPHIA — Some 30 people came to see a movie on the life of Kim Bok-dong, a Korean “comfort woman” and human rights activist, Oct. 30. They also discussed the decision of the Philadelphia Art Commission to approve the installation of a memorial to the “comfort women” that month.

“Comfort women” is the euphemism employed by the Japanese government to describe the more than 200,000 women kidnapped and forced into brothels to service Japanese soldiers from the early 1930s and through the second imperialist World War. The United Nations estimates 90% of these women died during their captivity.

The Japanese rulers seized Korea in 1905 and imposed their colonial rule. They invaded Manchuria in 1931 and occupied most of Pacific Asia. In every area Japanese imperialist forces occupied, they set up “comfort stations” where women were forced to service as many as 50 Japanese soldiers a day.

This was part of the Japanese rulers’ preparations to challenge Washington over the Pacific, and to suppress the peoples they conquered. Millions were transported against their will to the Japanese mainland to serve as forced labor. Korean farmland was seized and turned over to Japanese landlords.

For decades after the U.S. rulers defeated Tokyo in 1945, the sexual slavery organized by the Japanese government was covered up.

Kim Bok-dong was just 14 when

the Japanese took her in 1940. They said she was needed to work in a factory. If she did not come, they warned her mother, the family would suffer. But the teenager found herself transported to one of hundreds of “comfort stations.” It took her almost 40 years to find the strength to tell her story.

In the movie Kim Bok-dong speaks out about what she and many other Korean women were forced to go through. After the showing, Philadelphia Peace Plaza Committee Chairperson Shinjoo Cho described the six-year fight to get approval to put up a statue to Korean and other sex slaves. The statue is meant to draw attention to and educate about this history. In addition to Korea, women from other colonies of Japan



Kim Bok-dong in April 2014 touches Statue of Peace, a memorial to victims of Japan’s war-time sexual slavery, at City Hall Plaza in Seongnam, Gyeonggi-do Province, in South Korea.

were treated the same way.

A lively discussion followed about how important this history is for today. The Japanese government is remilitarizing and Washington has stepped

up war maneuvers around the Korean Peninsula. Plans were discussed on placing the statue in a park, not far from Independence Mall, so it can be seen by as many people as possible.

UK women’s conference takes up fight for equality, rights

BY CATHARINA TIRSÉN

CARDIFF, Wales — Some 1,700 people joined discussion about how to advance the fight for women’s equality at the conference of FiLiA here Oct. 22-24. FiLiA, which describes itself as part of the women’s liberation movement, means daughter.

Support for the fight against women’s oppression and for political rights in Iran was a feature of the final conference session, which was addressed by Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe. An Iranian-born charity manager, she was released from prison in March after authorities pressed her to sign a false confession of spying for a foreign power, a condition for al-

lowing her to return to her family in the U.K. FiLiA participated in the campaign to win her freedom.

She paid tribute to those standing up to the Iranian regime’s assaults today: “There is this anger that has been suppressed in women, in people in Iran, for a very, very long time, and we are not just talking about freedom of what to wear.”

The erosion of hard-fought gains for women’s equality in the U.K., won over centuries of struggle, was a feature of many of the conference panels. Olympian athletes Mara Yamauchi, a marathon runner, and swimmer and TV personality Sharron Davies described current attacks on women’s sports carried out in the name of “transgender rights.”

Boxing and rugby are now the only sports in the U.K. “in which the women’s category is for females only,” Yamauchi said. Allowing men who identify as women into women’s sports based solely on testosterone levels, ignores “everything to do with having a female body which affects sports performances — menstruation and pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding.”

Censorship of women authors who say a person’s sex is determined by their biology was addressed in another panel. Milli Hill, author of the children’s book, *My Period*, told participants her publisher, Wren and Rook, demanded she insert a sentence in the book saying, “It’s not just girls who get periods, trans boys and non-binary people do too.” When Hill objected, the publisher threatened to withdraw her advance and eventually appointed a “sensitivity reader” to review the manuscript.

“Sensitivity readers’ are a relatively new thing,” author and editor Julia Williams told participants. “It’s another layer of censorship.”

Organized annually since 2013, this was FiLiA’s largest ever gathering, with participants from all over the U.K. and several other countries. Many women’s rights groups took part, including Women’s Rights Network, A Woman’s Place U.K. and Abortion Rights Cardiff.

Not everybody welcomed the conference. South Wales police say they are investigating an online threat to burn down the venue. The threat came from someone smearing participants as “trans-exclusionary radical feminists.”

THE MILITANT

Australia protests hit murder of Aboriginal youth

Thousands protested in 40 cities and towns across Australia at racist murder of Cassius Turvey, an Aboriginal youth in Perth. The *'Militant'* backs struggles of indigenous peoples against national oppression, part of the working-class road to unite the working class.



Militant/Linda Harris

Thousands joined vigils across Australia protesting racist murder of Cassius Turvey, inset.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

NEW READERS

☐ \$5 for 12 issues

RENEWAL

☐ \$10 for 12 weeks

☐ \$20 for 6 months

☐ \$35 for 1 year

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

PHONE

E-MAIL

UNION/SCHOOL/ORGANIZATION

CLIP AND MAIL TO THE MILITANT, 306 W. 37TH ST., 13TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10018. OR SUBSCRIBE ONLINE AT: WWW.THEMILITANT.COM

12 weeks of the *Militant* outside the U.S.: Australia, A\$10 • United Kingdom, £4 • Canada, Can\$7 • Caribbean and Latin America, US\$10 • Continental Europe, £8 • France, 8 euros • New Zealand and the Pacific Islands, A\$10 • All other areas, US\$16 (Send payment to addresses listed in business information box)

The Militant

Vol. 86/No. 44

Closing news date: November 16, 2022

Editor: John Studer

Managing Editor: Terry Evans

Editorial volunteers: Róger Calero, Seth Galsinsky, Emma Johnson, Martin Koppel, Roy Landersen, Jacob Perasso, Brian Williams.

Published weekly except for one week in January, two weeks in June, one week in August, two weeks in December.

Business Manager: Bob Bruce

The Militant (ISSN 0026-3885), 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Telephone: (212) 244-4899

Fax: (212) 244-4947

E-mail: themilitant@mac.com

Website: www.themilitant.com

Correspondence concerning subscriptions or changes of address should be addressed to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Militant, 306 W. 37th Street, 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: United States: For one year send \$35 to above address.

Latin America, Caribbean: For one year send \$85 drawn on a U.S. bank to above address.

Africa, Asia, and the Middle East: For one year send \$85 drawn on a U.S. bank to above address.

Canada: For one year send Canadian \$45 to the Militant, 7107 St. Denis #204, Montreal, Quebec H2S 2S5.

United Kingdom: Send £30 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London, 5 Norman Road (first floor), Seven Sisters, London, N15 4ND, England.

Republic of Ireland and Continental Europe: Send £85 for one year by check or international money order made out to CL London at above address.

France: Send 100 euros for one year to Diffusion du Militant, BP 10130, 75723 Paris Cedex 15.

Australia: Send A\$70 for one year to P.O. Box 73 Campsie, NSW 2194 Australia.

New Zealand and the Pacific Islands: Send A\$70 for one year to above address.

Submissions to the *Militant* may be published in the newspaper in print and digital format. By submitting, authors represent that their submissions are original and consent to publication in this manner.

Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the *Militant's* views. These are expressed in editorials.

Fall campaigns over the top

Continued from front page both issued by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes on behalf of the party's national committee. Campaigners joined actions in support of the widespread demonstrations in Iran and in opposition to Washington's embargo against Cuba.

On picket lines and at rallies by rail workers, bakery workers, nurses and others, the *Militant* was appreciated as an invaluable place to find the truth — and the latest news — about these working-class battles, and the paper's efforts to expand support.

The effort was complemented by party election campaigns in the U.S. and Canada. Candidates explained why taking on the Democrats' assault on constitutional freedoms is the most important issue today as working people seek to defend our class in the face of increasing efforts by the capitalists to push their economic crisis onto our backs.

Response among fighting workers

As the campaign was coming to a close, Communist League members and supporters in Canada joined the Nov. 4 picket line of 15,000 in Toronto's Queen's Park and other actions in support of the two-day strike and ongoing fight by school workers to defend their right to strike. The 55,000-member Canadian Union of Public Employees and 8,000 education workers in the Ontario Public Service Employees Union forced the Conservative provincial government to withdraw Bill 28, one of the biggest attacks on union rights there in years.

"We're fighting for the right to strike against a draconian law," John Roberts, a CUPE custodian told League member Steve Penner. "Without the right to strike workers have no voice, no way of fighting for better wages and working conditions."

"I completely agree with you, and we can go further," said Penner, "Our

unions need to break from their support of the capitalist parties and build a labor party, based on the unions, that can fight to establish a workers and farmers government that will act on our behalf rather than the wealthy capitalist rulers."

Vicky Mercier, a striking teacher who wrote some of the *Militant's* coverage of their battle, described a discussion she had with Dawn Edwards, a CUPE member. "Wages and benefits are important," Edwards said, "but for me the issue is the government taking away our civil liberties, our constitutional rights!"

Working people at the solidarity actions bought 10 *Militant* subscriptions and 29 books. Going door to door in Toronto, League members and supporters found broad support for the school workers' fight.

In Minneapolis, Diaspora Forces, a group of West Africans that gives support to people from Togo and other countries in West Africa, invited the SWP campaign to set up a literature table at its meeting. Doug Nelson, the SWP candidate for mayor of Minneapolis in 2021, brought greetings to the gathering. Two participants subscribed to the *Militant* and four Pathfinder books were bought, including *Thomas Sankara Speaks* in English and French.

SWP members Edwin Fruit and Mary Martin visited long-term subscribers to the *Militant* and people who met the party through the SWP's 2021 and 2022 election campaigns in Minnesota. After they explained how the



Militant/Dennis Richter
SWP campaigner Josefina Otero talks with Rafael Ramirez at truck stop outside Fort Worth, Texas, Sept. 27, about importance of fight to defend constitutional rights in face of FBI attacks.

party is funded by contributions from working people, one person kicked in \$42 and another gave \$50 to the SWP Party-Building Fund. Another person they called came to the pre-election rally at the campaign headquarters on Nov. 5 and gave a contribution of \$50.

In Ft. Worth, Texas, Alyson Kennedy, the SWP 2022 candidate for Texas governor, and Gerardo Sánchez, the party's candidate for U.S. Congress, set up campaign signs with a car-trunk book display at some grocery store parking lots. During discussions with workers there, they sold six books and three subscriptions to the *Militant*.

"I moved here from California where I couldn't survive getting \$15

an hour and paying \$10 a gallon for gas and the high rents," Luci Alvarez told Sánchez Nov. 13.

"Our unions," Sánchez said, "can lead a fight for cost-of-living adjustments in all union contracts, as well as in Social Security and other benefits, that keep up with inflation."

Cameron Standmire, a warehouse worker, got a subscription to the *Militant* and a copy of *Labor, Nature, and the Evolution of Humanity*.

The SWP and Communist Leagues plan to build on the success of the campaign, continuing to get out the word about today's working-class struggles and build solidarity. To join in, contact the party branch nearest you on page 8.

First Pathfinder e-books for blind readers are available

BY HARVEY MCARTHUR

The first six electronic books from Pathfinder Press fully accessible for readers who are blind or have low vision are now available from Bookshare.org. Pathfinder publishes books by Socialist Workers Party leaders and others that present a revolutionary working-class road forward.

The new e-books include Pathfinder's latest title, *Labor, Nature, and the Evolution of Humanity* by Karl Marx, Frederick Engels, George Novack and Mary-Alice Waters. Also available are *The Communist Manifesto* by Marx and Engels; *The Turn to Industry: Forging a Proletarian Party* by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes; *Tribunes of the People and the Trade Unions* by Marx, V.I. Lenin, Leon Trotsky, Farrell Dobbs and Barnes; as well as *Are They Rich Because They're Smart?* and *Cuba and the Coming American Revolution*, both by Barnes.

There are an estimated 7.5 million blind and vision-impaired people in the U.S. Around 1 million have full-time jobs, including in industry and warehouses. Thousands work in so-called industries for the blind, where federal law allows owners to pay less than the minimum wage on the pretext that they're "helping the

handicapped." In reality, these employers are profiting off the superexploitation of these workers.

The National Federation of the Blind has campaigned to get these companies to raise wages and improve working conditions. Recently the group took on Amazon after five blind employees filed complaints with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission saying it didn't provide accommodations they needed to do their job. In 2021 the National Federation of the Blind won an agreement from Amazon to end these discriminatory practices and is working with employees there to make the company live up to the agreement.

Pathfinder books are vital political tools for working people looking for a way forward out of capitalism's deepening economic and social crises and its wars. The books draw on both past and present working-class struggles here and around the world, covering labor battles, the Bolshevik and Cuban revolutions, the fight against Black oppression and for women's emancipation. They include speeches and writings by revolutionary leaders, including Marx, Engels, Lenin, Trotsky, Malcolm X, Fidel Castro, Che Guevara, Thomas Sankara, and leaders of the SWP.

Making these titles available as e-books opens the way for blind and vision-impaired readers to study and discuss them along with co-workers and fellow fighters, sighted or not.

Bookshare makes digital copies of books available for those with a reading or perceptual disability, a visual impairment or a physical condition that affects their ability to read. These books are available in different formats, including EPUB, Braille Ready Format, Daisy and audiobooks. Readers

can choose the format they prefer.

Anyone in the world who needs this service can sign up at www.bookshare.org. There is a small annual fee for most users, with no charge to download books. Readers in some other countries can sign up with local organizations that partner with Bookshare to access these books. These include: the Royal National Institute of Blind People (rnib.org.uk) in the United Kingdom; CELA — Centre for Equitable Library Access (celalibrary.ca) in Canada; and Vision Australia (visionaustralia.org).

In order to produce these digital titles, Pathfinder volunteers turn book files into accessible e-books, working to standards developed by the Daisy Consortium and other organizations experienced in preparing digital reading for the blind. Volunteers write short descriptions of each photograph and other illustrations, in order to expand on the print-book captions. They enter codes so pagination in e-books matches the print books, making it easier for readers who are blind and sighted to refer to and discuss material together on the same pages. They attach links to the table of contents, notes, glossaries and indexes, helping readers find their way around and better understand and use the e-books.

Currently 33 other Pathfinder titles are available in text-only format at Bookshare, which lack the extra accessibility features. They will be replaced by fully accessible e-books over time.

Titles currently in production are *Teamster Rebellion* by Dobbs; *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* by Barnes and Cosmetics, *Fashion, and the Exploitation of Women* by Joseph Hansen, Evelyn Reed, and Waters. More will follow!

Campaign to expand reach of 'Militant,' books, SWP fund						
Sept. 17 - November 15 (final chart)						
Country	Sub quota	Subs sold	Books quota	Books sold	Fund quota	Fund received
UNITED STATES						
Atlanta	75	75	75	75	\$9,600	\$9,684
Chicago	110	109	110	111	\$14,000	\$14,524
Cincinnati	70	43	70	51	\$6,000	\$6,003
Dallas-Ft. Worth	65	67	65	66	\$5,000	\$5,276
Lincoln	15	17	15	15	\$500	\$520
Los Angeles	90	91	90	102	\$15,250	\$16,808
Miami	45	45	45	56	\$5,750	\$5,888
Minneapolis	70	72	70	80	\$5,500	\$5,753
N. New Jersey	70	76	70	81	\$7,500	\$7,934
New York	115	117	115	143	\$21,000	\$21,129
Oakland	90	94	90	104	\$15,500	\$15,591
Philadelphia	50	52	50	53	\$6,000	\$6,002
Pittsburgh	65	58	65	50	\$6,000	\$6,008
Seattle	75	79	75	75	\$14,500	\$14,525
Washington	50	52	50	54	\$4,600	\$4,851
Other		11		89		\$2,440
Total U.S.	1055	1058	1055	1,205	\$136,700	\$142,936
Prisoners	50	72				
UNITED KINGDOM						
London	40	47	40	87		
Manchester	40	48	40	57		
Total U.K.	80	95	80	144		
Canada	80	90	80	116		
Australia	30	37	30	38		
Total	1,295	1,352	1,245	1,503	\$136,700	\$142,936
SHOULD BE	1,350	1,350	1,350	1,350	\$140,000	\$140,000

Puerto Rico Cuba solidarity

Continued from front page

FBI agents visited or called at least 62 people in Puerto Rico at the end of August. All but a few had gone on the Juan Rius Rivera Solidarity Brigade to Cuba. Alerted about the FBI operation by the Cuba Solidarity Committee, all of them refused to talk to the U.S. rulers' political police.

The FBI fishing expedition was aimed at finding some legal pretext to go after the Solidarity Committee and Rivera. Agents acted friendly, inviting brigadistas to talk over coffee. "It's like they wanted to say, 'Look, we're nice people,'" she said, and that everyone should forget the history of the FBI in Puerto Rico.

Some agents claimed the brigade had been infiltrated by Cuban security — an out-and-out lie — or had violated a U.S. "law" they refused to name.

Rivera was in New York for a three-day tour to speak out against the FBI intimidation. She spoke to a class at Hostos Community College, was on a panel at a meeting of 120 at the People's Church in East Harlem, and joined a march against the U.S. economic war on Cuba Oct. 29.

During the pandemic, Rivera explained, the Solidarity Committee organized people in Puerto Rico to send half a million syringes to Cuba so that the five vaccines Cuban scientists developed against COVID-19 could be used. Syringes are in short supply because of Washington's brutal sanctions.

While building solidarity with Cuba, "we have also been able to get out the word about our situation as a U.S. colony," she said. "That doesn't make them happy either."

Puerto Ricans were given U.S. citizenship in 1917, Rivera noted, to allow Washington to draft Puerto Ricans into the U.S. Army in World War I.

"The colony has served the U.S. rulers well," she said. That's why solidarity with Cuba "has made us a little bit dangerous. We are demonstrating that we are not satisfied with what the U.S. is doing with Cuba nor with what it is doing with Puerto Rico."

Washington recently gave \$2 million to "aid" Cuba after Hurricane Ian, Rivera noted, "an infinitely small amount compared to what Cuba loses every day from the U.S. blockade. Both the Democrats and Republicans want to strangle Cuba because it's an example for the world."

What "Cuba needs," Rivera said, "is all the U.S. sanctions lifted."

FBI, an instrument of colonial rule

Rivera explains, "The FBI is an instrument to perpetuate colonial rule in Puerto Rico."

Its long history as the U.S. rulers' political police, attacking labor unions, Black rights groups, the Socialist Workers Party and others, also includes its systematic targeting of fighters for Puerto Rican independence over decades.

In 1937 FBI agents helped railroad Puerto Rican Nationalist Party leader Pedro Albizu Campos to prison. He was charged with conspiracy to overthrow the government, despite no evidence he had carried out a single illegal act.

"They even had a file on Luis Muñoz Marín," she said, the colony's first elected governor and an important figure in aiding the U.S. rulers' efforts to disguise their colonial rule on the island.

That's why the FBI has been trying to change its image, Rivera said. It's carried out well-publicized arrests of union and government officials and cops on charges of corruption, trying to paint itself as a friend of the Puerto Rican people.



AP/Ricardo Figueroa

Thousands march to U.S. Federal Building in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Feb. 26, 2006, to protest FBI killing of Macheteros leader Filiberto Ojeda Riós and raids by FBI on homes of pro-independence fighters. This August, FBI harassed members of brigade who traveled to Cuba.

"It's like what you say about the raid on Donald Trump's mansion," Rivera said, referring to the *Militant's* explanation that whenever the U.S. government violates the constitutional rights of anyone, the same and worse will be done, and has been done, against working people.

Rivera's first personal experience with the FBI's trampling of constitutional rights was 37 years ago.

On Aug. 30, 1985, 200 heavily armed FBI agents raided 38 homes and the offices of independence activists in Puerto Rico, as part of going after the Macheteros, a pro-independence group accused of robbing a Wells Fargo armored truck in Hartford, Connecticut, in 1983. The agents arrested 11 independence activists and confiscated the printing press of *Pensamiento Crítico*, a pro-independence magazine.

The FBI occupied the apartment building where Rivera still lives. "We were not part of the Macheteros, but we

were an important voice in opposing the FBI raids," she said. "I called NotiUno radio station and they were the first to report that the FBI had invaded the Los Robles cooperative.

'Prisoners in our own homes'

"The FBI was in the hallways. They didn't let the lawyers enter the building," Rivera said. "It's like we were prisoners in our own homes. They carted off sealed boxes. They had wiretapped many people's phones.

"The FBI couldn't utilize in court a lot of what they took because it wasn't taken legally," Rivera said.

"A neighbor who was not an independentista said, 'Let's all go wash our clothes together'" as a way to protest, Rivera recalled. "The residents filled the hallways despite the presence of FBI agents armed with automatic weapons."

Twenty years later the FBI surrounded the house where Macheteros leader Filiberto Ojeda Riós was living after he had escaped from prison in the U.S. After gravely wounding him, the FBI wouldn't let anyone approach the house for 20 hours, ensuring the independence fighter bled to death. Thousands in Puerto Rico turned out for his funeral.

That experience is still remembered in Puerto Rico today.

The FBI has not tried to contact anyone on the Juan Rius Rivera Brigade since August, Rivera notes, but members of the committee assume the FBI is still looking for ways to target them. The best defense against the FBI is to continue building solidarity with Cuba — the committee is already organizing next year's brigade — and to keep denouncing any FBI disruption attempts.

We have a saying, Rivera says, "We are Puerto Ricans and we're going to Cuba."

Lessons of Cuban 'missile' crisis: 'Unity of Cuban people'

BY JOE YOUNG

MONTREAL — Forty people joined in a meeting here Oct. 29 to mark the 60th anniversary of the 1962 Cuba "missile" crisis and to discuss two books, *October 1962: The 'Missile' Crisis as Seen From Cuba* and *Making History: Interviews with Four Generals of Cuba's Revolutionary Armed Forces*. The meeting was organized by Pathfinder Books, which distributes these titles in Canada, and endorsed by the Table de concertation de solidarite Quebec-Cuba.

Susana Malmierca, consul general of Cuba in Montreal, encouraged participants to read these books. "Cuba was a young revolution that had faced invasion in 1961 and was suffering from many subversive attacks," she said. "We defended our sovereignty and our revolution. October 1962 was not only a heroic act but also a way forward."

"There are many lessons from the 60th anniversary," she said. "The unity of the Cuban people. Our willingness to defend our independence, to defend our goals, the tenacity of the Cuban people that does not give up."

"We can find these same threats to Cuba today 60 years later," she added. "Subversive acts of all kinds. During the pandemic the embargo was increased. Our losses are in the billions. Imagine the impact on a Third World country like Cuba despite the almost unanimous demands of the international community to end the embargo."

In October 1962, in its hatred for Cu-

ban working people making a socialist revolution, Washington pushed the world to the edge of nuclear war. The U.S. rulers had placed missiles in Turkey and Italy capable of reaching Moscow. Soviet leaders responded by asking the Cuban leadership if they would place similar arms in Cuba. Fidel Castro agreed, out of solidarity. Washington escalated its threats and war moves.

Led by Cuba's revolutionary government, Cuban working people mobilized and showed their determination and readiness to defend their revolution. They blocked U.S. plans for a military assault, opening the way to resolve the crisis.

Moscow removed its missiles as Washington agreed to do the same.

Claude Morin, a retired professor of Latin American history at the University of Montreal, explained that *October 1962: The 'Missile' Crisis as Seen From Cuba* was unique. It describes "the defense of the Cuban Revolution and its socialist project, the affirmation of its independence and sovereignty, the mobilization, both spontaneous and organized, of the Cuban people in arms, and the strategic and political vision of Fidel Castro and the Cuban leaders. That is the substance of this account argued with force on the basis of abundant documentation."

Philippe Tessier, a rail worker and member of the Communist League, spoke for Pathfinder. "The books we are presenting today show the way hurford

for those who fight against the ferocious competition among the capitalist powers that leads inevitably toward more wars like the invasion of Ukraine by Moscow," he said.

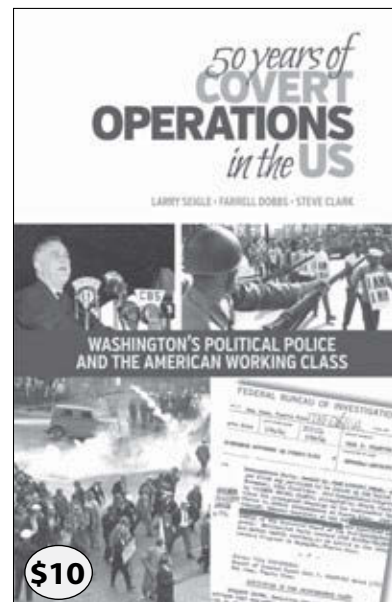
"They are books for those who oppose the strengthening of the Canadian state to the detriment of our democratic freedoms, like we have seen with the first use of the Emergencies Act by the Liberal government of Justin Trudeau."

"The communist leadership of Fidel Castro, the combatants of the Rebel Army and those who were won to this course during the struggle allowed the workers, farmers and all others exploited in Cuba to take in hand their destiny," Tessier said. "It is for this reason that the capitalist governments, like Canada, have done everything in their power under the leadership of U.S. imperialism to destroy and overturn the revolution.

"Without building a revolutionary party here we cannot do what the Cubans did," Tessier concluded. "That is our biggest contribution to the defense of the Cuban Revolution."

Claudette Lavergne spoke in the discussion on behalf of the Table de concertation de solidarite Quebec-Cuba. She encouraged participants to join a car caravan against the embargo that was taking place the next day.

After the meeting, Alexandre Jacob, a Canadian National train conductor and member of the Teamsters, told the *Militant*, "What struck me the most is how resilient the Cubans are."



pathfinderpress.com

—ON THE PICKET LINE—

Workers in Europe strike, protest for raises to cover inflation

Rising prices on basic necessities like food, fuel and housing worldwide have hit working people hard, leading to strikes and other protest actions in countries across Europe this week.

Thousands took to the streets in France Nov. 10 to demand wage hikes to match inflation. Striking rail and health care workers and teachers held protest demonstrations in dozens of French cities. In Paris, strikes shut down large parts of the public transportation system and many schools.

A one-day nationwide strike was organized Nov. 9 by trade unions in Belgium to demand cost-of-living increases to compensate for huge energy bill hikes. Gas prices have risen by 130% over a year ago, the unions say, electricity by 85% and fuel by 57%. Food prices also have soared.

In Greece, workers represented by private and public-sector unions conducted a 24-hour nationwide strike and rallied outside of parliament in Athens the same day.

Surging energy prices and the rising cost of living have also led to sizable protest marches in Germany, Spain, Czech Republic and Hungary in recent weeks. The galloping inflation in the EU is part of a broader capitalist crisis that has been exacerbated by Moscow's invasion of Ukraine and the cutoff of Russia's natural gas supplies to Europe.

Working people in Central and Eastern European countries have faced some of the highest inflation rates on the continent, from nearly 16% in Romania to over 20% in Hungary. Prices for staples like bread and cheese rose by 70% on the year in Hungary. In Poland, sugar prices jumped 50%.

"Everything has become more expensive — bread, basic foods, cooking ingredients, everything," Erzsebet Kristofi, a 47-year-old mother of a child with special needs, told Reuters. She was in line for a free hot meal on the outskirts of Budapest. "That is why I come here, to have some fresh food every day and some bread, pastries or vegetables."

In Bulgaria, thousands of protesters, organized by the country's two largest

trade unions, rallied for higher pay in front of the parliament building in Sofia Nov. 11. Signs included, "Inflation is rising, our wages are not."

— Brian Williams

California teaching instructors strike for higher wages, benefits

BERKELEY, Calif. — Nearly 48,000 University of California researchers, teaching assistants, graders and others went on strike Nov. 14 in a fight for higher wages, benefits and better working conditions. The workers, members of the United Auto Workers, do more than half the research and teaching at the state's 10 University of California campuses, yet account for only a tiny percent of the system's budget.

Thousands rallied in the plaza at the university's campus here, the first day of the strike as speakers described their fight for respect and a livable income. "They told us we couldn't unionize, but we have," Tanzil Chowdhury, a research assistant and member of the bargaining committee, told the crowd.

"There is no way teaching instructors can make it on the \$2,000 to \$2,400 we're paid a month," Bethany Smith, a graduate student instructor in physics at the Berkeley campus, told the *Militant*.

The union is demanding child care reimbursements, full health care and paid family leave. A large number of workers are in their late 20s and early 30s and find it difficult to begin or support a family.

Union members voted to go on strike after a year of fruitless negotiations with the university administration.

— Betsey Stone and Beverly Bernardo

Toronto regional transit workers return to work

TORONTO — After four days on strike, Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1587 reached a tentative agreement and returned to work. The strike was popular with fellow unionists in the region, coming after the Ontario provincial government enacted a series of anti-union measures.

The 2,200 workers, who voted 81% to reject the previous contract offer, went on strike Nov. 7. They include bus driv-



Reuters/Spasiyana Sergieva

In Bulgaria, thousands of protesters, organized by country's two largest unions, rallied in Sofia Nov. 11, demand raises to combat inflation. Sign says, "Inflation is rising, our wages are not."

ers, cleaners, service attendants and maintenance workers at GO Transit, the Toronto regional transit system. Workers will vote on the tentative deal in the coming days.

Several hundred strikers and supporters rallied outside the Willowbrook maintenance facility Nov. 8. Strikers enthusiastically chanted "When workers don't get it, shut it down!" and, referring to the fight won the day before by 55,000 school workers organized by the Canadian Union of Public Employees, "When CUPE don't get it, shut it down!" The school workers' strike forced the provincial government to withdraw Bill 28, which outlawed their right to strike and imposed massive fines on the union and individual workers, as well as a miserable four-year contract.

Bus driver Ellen Clark told the *Militant* the biggest issue in their strike is contracting out the jobs of cleaners, maintenance mechanics and others. "They got away with it because we hadn't fought it. Now we're fighting." In addition to reducing the number of union jobs, she said, contracting out is a health and safety issue because it means union members have less control over job conditions.

Clark and several of her co-workers described the difficult working conditions they face. They work split shifts, but only get paid for part of their gap time, even when they are too far from

home to do anything but babysit their bus. They said this wreaks havoc with family lives.

"About 50% of the maintenance jobs at the Willowbrook facility have been contracted out," ATU Local President Rob Cormier told the *Militant*.

GO Transit's rail workers have a different boss — Alstom Transport — and are in the Teamsters union. They weren't on strike.

An ATU statement says the tentative deal addresses workers' concerns. It also says, "Although the deal capped wage increases at 1% subject to Bill 124, the Union was able to agree to a wage reopener if Bill 124 is reversed." Bill 124, enacted by the Ontario government in 2019, imposes a wage increase cap of 1% yearly on 700,000 public-sector workers for three years. It is being challenged in the courts.

— Susan Berman

'Pittsburgh Post-Gazette' strikers gain support, stay strong

"Six stores in my area are handing their *Post-Gazette* paper bundle over to me after they receive it so I can return it to the company offices," Jim "Hutchie" Vanlandingham told the *Militant*. Vanlandingham is a mailer and the Communications Workers of America union media representative. He is featured in a video and radio ad appealing for support to the strike.

Locals of the CWA and the Teamsters struck the printing facility Oct. 6, with workers facing big increases in medical insurance costs on top of not receiving any wage increases in 16 years. News Guild/CWA-organized newsroom workers walked out Oct. 18 over worsening work conditions.

The twice-a-week print edition is being printed at the nonunion *Butler Eagle* plant. On Oct. 22, Teamsters and CWA strikers were picketing there when someone in one of the scab delivery trucks sprayed bear spray — a painful, incapacitating weapon — on several of them. Following this incident and close calls with other scab vehicles, *Post-Gazette* and *Butler Eagle* managements stepped up violence baiting against the workers and got a compliant judge to issue an injunction to severely limit picketing. The unions are appealing.

Striking reporters are producing an online daily paper, Pittsburgh Union Progress, combining news and strike updates. Visit the picket lines! Build solidarity in your union. Drop your subscription for the duration of the strike. Donate to the strike fund at unionprogress.com.

— Candace Wagner

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



December 1, 1997

Problems on the railroad have clogged California ports, stranded grain crops in the Midwest, and closed some Gulf Coast petrochemical plants that are unable to get needed materials.

The meltdown began early this summer after the Union Pacific bought out the rival Southern Pacific Railroad. One of the first things the merged railroad did was cut the overall workforce by more than 2,000. The drive to squeeze as much work as possible out of fewer workers lies behind the safety disaster unfolding in Texas. Nine rail workers have been killed since June 22 as a result of numerous major rail accidents.

On Sept. 10 the Federal Railroad Administration issued a report that stated that the UP Railroad is suffering from a fundamental breakdown in safety procedures, primarily from deficiencies in training, dispatching, and employee fatigue.



December 1, 1972

BATON ROUGE, La. — "There would have been no violence if the students had not fired the first shot or whatever." This is one of the first public statements Louisiana Gov. Edwin Edwards made concerning the death of two Black youths on the Baton Rouge campus of Southern University Nov. 16.

Through this statement and others like it Edwards tried to shift the blame for the deaths — which students have described as an attempted assassination of students leading their fight against control over the school by the all-white board of education — from the police onto the backs of the students.

They were prepared to wage war. The officers, one student remarked, were equipped for battle in Vietnam, bearing tear-gas grenades, Thompson sub-machine guns, M-16s, riot-20 shotguns, M-79 grenade launchers, and M-1 carbines complete with bayonets.



December 1, 1947

The tycoons who run Hollywood have announced the firing of the ten studio employees who refused to answer yes or no to the House Un-American Committee's question as to whether they were members of the Communist (Stalinist) Party. This action of the movie autocrats is one more step in the deliberate drive of American Big Business to establish "thought control" in the United States.

Next in line after the purge in Hollywood are logically the radio, magazines, newspapers and books. Even that is not all. The final objective is all American industry. The aim is to label any worker who refuses to kiss the boss's shoes as a "red" and throw him into the streets. The aim is to brand as "subversive" and "disloyal" any militant ready to stand up and fight for his union.

The prosecuting attorney, judge and jury will be the boss.

Khrushchev ‘revelations’ of Stalin’s crimes shook world politics

One of Pathfinder’s Books of the Month for November is *Speeches for Socialism* by James P. Cannon. Inspired by the Russian Revolution led by the Bolsheviks, he became a founding leader of the Communist Party in the United States in 1919 and of the Communist International under V.I. Lenin. As the Stalinist counterrevolution in the Soviet Union consolidated, he was expelled from the C.P. in 1928 for supporting the fight led by Leon Trotsky to continue Lenin’s proletarian internationalist course. Cannon led the communist movement that in 1938 became the Socialist Workers Party. The excerpt is from his June 1956 talk, “Khrushchev’s Report to the Twentieth Congress,” given after Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev’s secret speech four months earlier was published, including in the *Militant*. Copyright © 1969 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY JAMES P. CANNON

[T]he interests and the destiny of the international working class are indissolubly bound up with the interests and destiny of the Soviet Union.

We Trotskyists regard the Russian Revolution of 1917 as the great dividing line in human history. Ascending world capitalism came to a halt there, met with its first defeat, and entered into its decline. The Russian Revolution



Arpad Hazafi/AP

SWP leader James P. Cannon said Khrushchev’s 1956 speech exposing Stalin’s crimes showed “Soviet masses are beginning to stir.” By October, workers’ uprisings erupted against Stalinist regimes in Hungary, above, and Poland. Moscow put down Hungarian Revolution in blood.

tion signaled the real beginning of humanity’s march to the higher and better order of socialism. All social progress in modern times dates from November 7, 1917.

We Trotskyists are internationalists. We have always regarded the Russian Revolution not as an end in itself, but as the starting point of the worldwide socialist revolution. For that reason, from that socialist internationalist standpoint, we have been partisans and defenders of the Soviet Union and the Russian Revolution which brought it into existence, ever since 1917.

Everything that has happened in the thirty-nine-year evolution of the Soviet Union has always had a burning interest for us from that internationalist socialist point of view. Everything we have said and done, either in praise or in criticism, in all the intervening time, has been governed by the single criterion: what is good for the revolution, for the defense of the Soviet Union, for the extension of the revolution throughout the world?

That was our criterion in defending the revolution in its first difficult years when the combined imperialist nations tried to strangle it in the cradle.

That was our criterion in 1928 when we first came out in support of the Left Opposition in the Russian party, in the internal struggle against the bureaucratic degeneration of the revolution under Stalin. The Left Opposition fought un-

der the great slogans of soviet democracy, industrialization, and revolutionary internationalism. It stood for the defense of the Soviet Union by the policy of international class struggle.

We were governed by the same criterion, what is good for the Soviet Union and for its extension throughout the world, in the thirties when we denounced the Moscow trials as frame-ups and protested against the physical extermination of the Old Bolsheviks who were the victims of those trials.

We bring the same criterion, the same basic point of view about the Soviet Union, to the present consideration of the new revelations now coming out of Moscow about the monstrous crimes of Stalin and Stalinism. We discuss them as partisans and defenders of the Soviet Union. ...

[T]he events of the Twentieth Congress represent progress because a part of the truth of what has been going on inside the Soviet Union for a long time — to undermine it and endanger it — a part of the truth about that was revealed at the Twentieth Congress for the first time. Truth is always the ally of progress.

In the new revelations, and others that are yet to come, we see the distorted reflection in the top circles of the Soviet bureaucracy of a deep-going movement of the Soviet masses. We are witnessing a new stage in the development of the

Russian Revolution, a progressive stage. The Soviet masses are beginning to stir. That’s why the tops are shaking.

The wholesale denunciation and repudiation of Stalin, three years after he is safely dead, sensational and far-reaching as it is, marks only the beginning. The whole story of the monstrous crimes of Stalin and Stalinism has not yet been told. Far from it. But the heirs and accomplices of Stalin, by their preliminary revelations, have set in motion a process that they will never be able to control.

It will not stop until the full truth is known, and until every vestige of Stalinism in the Soviet Union has been swept away by the Soviet masses, and until this foul disease is eradicated from the international labor movement. The truth is on the march again and nothing can stop it. The truth is always progressive. The truth is revolutionary. ...

The fact is that the Stalin regime, like every other, had a social basis. Stalin was the representative of the Soviet bureaucracy. Many people, including Khrushchev & Co., enjoyed rich benefits and privileges under the rule of Stalin. They grew prosperous and sleek and fat under Stalin. They drove automobiles and lived in summer cottages and enjoyed all the fruits of the labor of the heroic Russian working class. They were the ones who supported Stalin, and they were well satisfied with his regime. And they supported it in all its crimes.

The privileged beneficiaries of the Stalin regime numbered millions in the Soviet Union. It was not one man alone; there were millions tied to that regime and prospering under it. They were a small minority of the Soviet population, but still they numbered millions. This privileged minority formed the social basis of the Stalin regime. ...

There were people in the Soviet Union who recognized the danger of Stalin and Stalinism from the very beginning. They told the truth about it too, and they led the fight against it from the beginning, in 1923, thirty-three years ago. The organizers of the fight against Stalinism were the very same people who organized and led the October Revolution in 1917. The first one to denounce Stalin in writing and to demand his removal, was Lenin. And the second was Trotsky. The same two men who led the great revolution, led the fight against its bureaucratic degeneration under Stalin.

November
BOOKS OF THE MONTH

Pathfinder
Readers Club
Specials

30%
DISCOUNT



Speeches for
Socialism

JAMES P.
CANNON

Speeches over
40 years of
revolutionary
activity by a
founder of the
communist
movement in the
United States.

\$20. Special price \$14

Red Zone

Cuba and the Battle Against Ebola in
West Africa

ENRIQUE UBIETA

\$17. Special price \$12

The Jewish Question

A Marxist Interpretation

ABRAM LEON

\$17. Special price \$12

The Last Year of Malcolm X

GEORGE BREITMAN

\$15. Special price \$10.50

Humanism and Socialism

GEORGE NOVACK

\$12. Special price \$8.50

Sont-ils riches parce qu'ils
sont intelligents?

(Are They Rich Because They're Smart?)

JACK BARNES

\$10. Special price \$7

Join the Pathfinder Readers
Club for \$10 and receive
discounts all year long

ORDER ONLINE AT
PATHFINDERPRESS.COM

OFFER GOOD UNTIL November 30

IF YOU LIKE THIS PAPER, LOOK US UP

Where to find distributors of the *Militant*, *New International*, and a full display of Pathfinder books.

UNITED STATES

CALIFORNIA: **Oakland:** 675 Hegenberger Road, Suite 250. Zip: 94621. Tel: (510) 686-1351. Email: swpoak@sbcglobal.net **Los Angeles:** 2826 S. Vermont. Suite 1. Zip: 90007. Tel: (323) 643-4968. Email: swpla@att.net

FLORIDA: **Miami:** 5711 NW 7th Ave. Unit B. Zip: 33142. Tel: (305) 929-8966. Email: swpmiami@icloud.com

GEORGIA: **Atlanta:** 777 Cleveland Ave. SW Suite 103. Zip: 30315. Tel: (678) 528-7828. Email: swpatlanta@fastmail.com

ILLINOIS: **Chicago:** 1858 W. Cermak Road, 2nd floor. Zip: 60608. Tel: (312) 792-6160. Email: SWPChicago@fastmail.fm

MINNESOTA: **Minneapolis:** 2401 1/2 Central Ave. NE, Unit B. Zip: 55418. Tel: (612) 271-1930. Email: swpminneapolis@gmail.com

NEBRASKA: **Lincoln:** P.O. Box 6811.

Zip: 68506. Tel: (402) 217-4906. Email: swplincn@gmail.com

NEW JERSEY: 3600 Bergenline, Suite 205B, Union City. Zip: 07087. Tel: (551) 240-1512. swpnewjersey@gmail.com

NEW YORK: **New York:** 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor. Zip: 10018. Tel: (646) 434-8117. Email: newyorkswp@gmail.com

OHIO: **Cincinnati:** 2300 Montana Ave., Suite 230. Tel: Zip: 45211. (513) 837-1038. Email: swpcincinnati@gmail.com

PENNSYLVANIA: **Philadelphia:** 2824 Cottman Ave., Suite 16. Zip: 19149. Tel: (215) 708-1270. Email: philaswp@verizon.net **Pittsburgh:** 5907 Penn Ave., Suite 313. Zip: 15206. Tel: (412) 610-2402. Email: swppittsburgh@gmail.com

TEXAS: **Dallas-Fort Worth:** 6815 Manhattan Blvd., Suite 108 Fort Worth. Zip: 76120. Tel: (817) 899-6720. Email: dfswp@gmail.com

WASHINGTON, D.C.: 7603 Georgia Ave. NW, Suite 300. Zip: 20012. Tel: (202) 536-5080. Email: swp.washingtondc@verizon.net

WASHINGTON: **Seattle:** 650 S. Orcas St., #120 Zip: 98108. Tel: (206) 323-1755. Email: swpseattle@gmail.com

AUSTRALIA

Sydney: Suite 2, First floor, 275 George St., Liverpool. Postal Address: P.O. Box 73 Campsie, NSW 2194. Tel: (61) 435-995-604. Email: cl_australia@optusnet.com.au

CANADA

QUEBEC: **Montreal:** 7107 St. Denis #204 H2S 2S5. Tel: (514) 272-5840. Email: clcmontreal@fastmail.com

FRANCE

Paris: BP 10130, 75723 Paris Cedex 15. Email: militant.paris@gmail.com

UNITED KINGDOM

ENGLAND: **London:** 5 Norman Road (first floor). Seven Sisters. Post code: N15 4ND. Tel: 020-3538 8900. Email: cllondon@fastmail.fm **Manchester:** 329, Royal Exchange Buildings, 3 Old Bank St. Post code: M2 7PE. Tel: (0161) 312-8119. Email: clmanchr@gmail.com

8 The Militant November 28, 2022

Socialist Workers Party offers road forward

Statement issued by John Studer, Socialist Workers Party national campaign director, Nov. 16.

Socialist Workers Party candidates in 2022 were the only voice saying that politics is not Red vs. Blue, or liberal vs. conservative, but *class vs. class*. They explained working people need our own party, separate and opposed to the bosses' Democrats and Republicans, and a working-class line-of-march forward. They built support for union strike struggles, presented proposals to protect working people from soaring prices and unemployment, and pointed to the common interests we share with workers worldwide.

Every other political force campaigned for or against former President Donald Trump, from Democrats of all stripes, the middle-class left, Never-Trump and newly minted No-more Trump Republicans to the Trump-endorsed Republican candidates. All these choices are a trap for workers.

Under capitalist rule, all those in the political arena serve the needs of one or the other of the two main classes, but not both. The bosses have two parties, and act as if that presents workers with a real choice. It's a sham. For the bosses, "which party do they support? They support both," wrote Socialist Workers Party leader James P. Cannon in 1944. "And what is even more important, both parties support them in all *fundamental* questions."

History shows — from the massive labor bat-

ties that built industrial unions in the 1930s to the Black-led working class movement that uprooted Jim Crow segregation — that as the class struggle deepens more workers become fed up with the bosses' parties. They increasingly recognize we need to rely on ourselves, to organize all those oppressed and exploited by capital to fight together and build solidarity with one another.

The road forward on this course is to organize and strengthen our unions, to build solidarity with all those on the front lines, from school workers in Ontario to 115,000 rail workers in the U.S. to the courageous workers and youth in Iran to the inspiring fighting people of Ukraine.

SWP candidates advanced this perspective and explained the decisive question is which class holds political power. They explained what workers and farmers can do together to establish our own government.

Working people in Cuba, under the Marxist leadership of Fidel Castro and other leaders of the July 26 Movement, took political power into their own hands, making ever deeper inroads against capitalist exploitation and property relations. Through their struggles they made, and recognized, the socialist character of their accomplishments and revolution — an example that can be emulated everywhere.

Ever since Cuban workers and farmers stormed to victory in 1959, the Socialist Workers Party here has acted on its pledge to do likewise. Join us!

Ukraine forces push Moscow out of Kherson

Continued from front page

"When our soldiers drove in, their machine guns were pointed up, into the air," Serhiy Blosenko, a construction worker, told the *New York Times*. "When the Russians drove in, their guns were pointed at the people. That explains everything. And they said they were our liberators." Blosenko had stayed at friends' houses, fearing arrest after joining protests in March against Moscow's occupation. Putin withdrew some 20,000 troops across the Dnipro River and further south.

Working people in Ukraine have been at the center of resistance to the invasion. Unlike Russian workers-in-uniform, used by Putin as cannon fodder, Ukrainian workers are fighting for a cause, deeply committed to defending their country's independence. Their determination made possible the liberation of Kherson, coming after Moscow's forces were repulsed from Kyiv in March, and routed from the Kharkiv region in September. It's a humiliating loss for the Kremlin.

Russian soldiers had used live fire to drive protesters in Kherson off the streets in April. Putin claimed the region as Russian territory Sept. 30 after a sham referendum. But his forces never crushed resistance to Moscow's rule.

Refusing to obey Moscow's diktats, Olya Malyarchuk, a taxi company clerk in the city, wouldn't settle bills in rubles and insisted on using Ukrainian currency. Iryna Dyagileva's daughter attended a Kherson school where authorities demanded students memorize the Russian national anthem. Teachers ignored the order and greeted students each day with "Glory to Ukraine!"

Weeks before retreating, Russian soldiers carried away the bones of Prince Grigory Potemkin from the city's cathedral. Potemkin led the czarist rulers' colonization of southern Ukraine in the 18th century. "We don't need the bones," Father Vitaly, the cathedral's priest, said. They're "a symbol of Russia's imperial ambitions."

Before leaving, Russian forces destroyed power lines, water pipes and other infrastructure.

"Better without electricity, without water and without heat if also without the Russians," Iryna Rodava-

nova, the retired curator of Kherson's Art Museum, told the *New York Times*. Kyiv is trying to restore essential services and remove mines and unexploded munitions. Moscow responded to its latest defeat with a new round of drone and missile attacks aimed at depriving millions of Ukrainians of electricity, heat and running water, to try to break their morale.

Washington urges talks

The capitalist rulers in Washington and some European countries are pressuring the Ukrainian government to set up talks with Moscow and cede some territory seized by Putin's forces, abandoning defense of the country's sovereignty in the name of "peace." These governments increasingly view the war as a threat to their own imperialist interests.

President Joseph Biden's national security adviser, Jake Sullivan, advised Kyiv to leave aside "unrealistic" demands like regaining Crimea, which Moscow seized from Ukraine in 2014. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky responded that talks can resume, but only once Moscow returns all of Ukraine's territory that it occupies.

Putin declared a conscription drive Sept. 21, sending tens of thousands of untrained and ill-equipped Russian troops to fight in Ukraine. This has fueled class conflicts inside Russia, prompting street protests in cities across the country in late September and other actions since then.

About 70 soldiers' wives marched from Belgorod, Russia, across the Ukrainian border into the war zone in Luhansk. They confronted the Russian military brass about the treatment of their husbands, who had been involved in a battle in the Donetsk region where Russian forces suffered high casualties. "We don't trust you anymore," the soldiers' wives told them. The women lodged a formal complaint with the military prosecutors' office. "We will not give up," Svetlana Gorbatenko told the press.

Other soldiers' wives and relatives have protested the call-up in online videos. Elena Agaeva from Almet'yevsk, Tatarstan, said the military is using her husband as "cannon fodder."

Tatyana Vasilyeva, 26, from the Moscow region, said her husband found himself in the warzone with "no combat or shooting experience." She said, "Today my husband and other men are in the forest without food, water, or warm clothes." In Serov, hundreds of miles east of Moscow, a father said, "Our children are on the front line, treated like pigs."

As the war continues, protests like these will mount.

Strikes, protests in Iran

Continued from front page

name Gina — Amini. She died three days after the hated "morality" police arrested her in Tehran for violating the regime's reactionary dress code.

The attacks by the police, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and thugs known as the Basij have come down hardest in regions that are home to oppressed nationalities, especially Kurds, Baluch and Azerbaijanis.

"The oppressors imagine that by imprisoning and assassinating freedom fighters, this struggle will be suppressed," the Haft Tappeh Sugar Cane Workers Union said Nov. 14. "But history has shown the opposite." Along with backing the slogan "Woman, life, freedom!" the union added, "Bread, work, freedom!" and called for releasing protesters and unionists imprisoned by the regime.

A coalition of 20 university student groups from around the country appealed to "workers, teachers, retirees, farmers, nurses, doctors. In a word, all those who sympathize with us."

"We are the children of the workers. We will stand by them," the student groups said, noting their excitement when they heard about strikes by oil workers and expressing support for the release of imprisoned teachers, and for farmers fighting for water rights.

The movement takes place amid a deep economic crisis — meat consumption fell 50% in the last year — and opposition by working people to the deadly toll of the regime's military operations in Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and beyond.

The Islamic Revolutionary Guard launched drone and missile attacks into Iraqi Kurdistan Nov. 14, targeting Kurdish groups they accuse of fomenting protests inside Iran. Guard Corps commander Hamza al-Shohada says the attacks will continue until Baghdad or the Kurdistan Regional Government there disarms the groups.

The historic Tehran Grand Bazaar and commercial districts across the country were shut down tight Nov. 15, except for hundreds of protesters filling the streets as shopkeepers joined the call to action.

Steelworkers on strike

Workers at the Shad Abad market for steel and other industrial products in Tehran went on strike Nov. 15, chanting "Freedom! Freedom!" and "Down with the dictator!" Workers at the Iran Zob steel foundry in Isfahan struck the same day, chanting "Promises are not enough, our table is empty!"

On the Pars offshore oil platforms, workers ended their hunger strike after company officials promised a wage increase next month and a retroactive increase. Workers say if that's not done they will strike again.

Tens of thousands of working people took to the streets in the Sistan-Baluchistan region in southeast Iran — the country's most rural and poorest area — Nov. 11 to commemorate the "Black Friday" massacre of 66 or more people by police snipers and the Guard in Zahedan Sept. 30. Another 18 were killed at a protest Nov. 4 in the Baluch city of Khash.

The Shiite-based clerical regime in Tehran claims the police were defending themselves from Sunni Baluch separatists who had attacked a police station.

"Today it has become clear that people were killed unjustly," Molavi Abdulhamid Ismaeelzahi, Iran's most prominent Sunni cleric, said during the Nov. 11 prayer service in Zahedan. "Those who ordered Bloody Friday and its perpetrators must be brought to trial."

With outrage over the massacres widespread, Iran Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, ordered the release of 100 of those arrested in Baluchistan and promised an investigation. Khamenei sent an envoy to the region who announced "rioters" would be "dealt with decisively," but that "innocent" people killed by the regime would be given the status of martyrs.

Donate your California gas-tax rebate to the Militant!

The California government is issuing payouts to state residents to "provide relief" from high gas prices. Put it to good use! Send it to the *Militant* to help us keep getting out the truth about the capitalist crisis and the road forward for working people. So far, we've received \$4,230. Mail checks to the *Militant*, 306 W. 37th St., 13th floor, New York, NY 10018 or donate online at themilitant.com

'Militant' Prisoners' Fund

The fund makes it possible to send prisoners reduced rate subscriptions. Send a check or money order payable to the 'Militant' and earmarked "Prisoners' Fund" to 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018. Or donate online at www.themilitant.com